

Health Advisory:

Influenza

Reporting of Influenza Related Deaths in Children

December 2, 2004

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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December 2, 2004

FROM: RICHARD C. DUNN
DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Influenza – Reporting of Influenza Related Deaths in Children

As of October 9, 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has added influenza-associated pediatric mortality to the list of Nationally Notifiable Infectious Diseases. Influenza-associated pediatric mortality is defined as “a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness that was confirmed to be influenza by an appropriate laboratory or rapid diagnostic test, and without a period of complete recovery between illness and death.” Missouri’s communicable disease reporting rule requires reporting of laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza, and thus encompasses reporting of influenza-associated pediatric mortality.

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) needs your cooperation in reporting deaths from laboratory confirmed influenza in children less than 18 years of age. It is important for DHSS to monitor this special condition. Please report, via a Communicable Disease Case Report (CD-1), the death of any child less than 18 years of age with laboratory or rapid diagnostic test and evidence of acute influenza virus infection. Please send it either to your local public health agency or directly to the DHSS. Local public health agencies should enter data into the Missouri Health Surveillance Information System (MHSIS), as an individual case, and not report this data using the case summary influenza reporting.

Furthermore, it is important for providers to continue to report to their local health departments all cases of influenza, including those that meet the criteria for this special condition.

For additional information on influenza, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

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